

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

SENATE FILE NO. [BILL NUMBER]

Legislator health care.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) SDraft

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to state employees and officials group
2 insurance; providing for enrollment by legislators;
3 granting rulemaking authority; providing a definition;
4 providing an appropriation; and providing for an effective
5 date.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-3-220 is created to read:

10

11 **9-3-220. Legislator membership in plan.**

12

1 (a) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, a
2 member of the Wyoming legislature is eligible for coverage
3 under the group insurance plan at premium rates established
4 by the department provided:

5
6 (i) Any member of the legislature eligible for
7 membership in the group insurance plan on January 7,
8 2025 shall have thirty-one (31) days to either elect to be
9 enrolled or not be enrolled in the plan. The department
10 shall establish the procedure by which eligible legislators
11 shall notify the department of their decision within the
12 prescribed thirty-one (31) day period;

13
14 (ii) An eligible member of the legislature who takes
15 office after January 7, 2025 has thirty-one (31) days from
16 the date he takes office to elect to be enrolled or not be
17 enrolled in the group insurance plan;

18
19 (iii) Members of the legislature who elect not to be
20 enrolled within the time prescribed in paragraphs (i) and
21 (ii) of this subsection may be enrolled at a later date
22 upon conditions the department may impose, such as a

1 specified open enrollment period and the exclusion of
2 preexisting conditions from coverage;

3

4 (iv) The legislature shall annually appropriate from
5 the general fund to the legislative service office amounts
6 necessary to fully fund the employer's and
7 member's contributions for those eligible and
8 enrolled members of the legislature.

9

10 (b) Any eligible member of the legislature may elect
11 to have his dependents covered by the group insurance plan
12 as follows:

13

14 (i) The election shall be made at the time the member
15 of the legislature becomes enrolled in the plan, under
16 procedures the department may establish. If dependent
17 coverage is not elected at the time that a member of the
18 legislature becomes enrolled in the plan, dependent
19 coverage may be elected at a later date under conditions
20 the department may impose, such as a specified open
21 enrollment period and the exclusion of preexisting
22 conditions from coverage;

23

1 (ii) Any member of the legislature who has elected to
2 have his dependents covered as provided in paragraph (i) of
3 this subsection, and who subsequently has a change in the
4 number of his dependents, may at the time of the change
5 increase or decrease the number of his dependents covered
6 by the group insurance plan under procedures established by
7 the department;

8
9 (iii) Any member of the legislature who has no
10 eligible dependents at the time he becomes enrolled in the
11 group insurance plan, and who later has an eligible
12 dependent may, at the time his dependency status changes,
13 elect coverage for the dependent under procedures
14 established by the department.

15
16 (c) The department shall establish procedures by
17 which the eligible members of the legislature shall make
18 application within the thirty-one (31) day period provided
19 under subsection (a) of this section.

20
21 (d) A member of the legislature may also participate
22 in any health benefit plan offered to state employees

1 pursuant to section 125 of the United States internal
2 revenue code.

3
4 (e) The department shall, by rule and regulation,
5 establish a process by which former members of the
6 legislature shall be treated as retirees for purposes of
7 obtaining or maintaining coverage under the plan after the
8 member is no longer a member of the legislature.

9
10 **Section 2.** W.S. 9-3-201(a), 9-3-203(a)(ix), (xiv) and
11 by creating a new paragraph (xvii) and by renumbering 9-3-
12 203(a)(xiv) as 9-3-203(a)(xviii) and 9-3-207 by creating a
13 new subsection (f) are amended to read:

14
15 **9-3-201. Group prepaid plans authorized; agreements**
16 **with insurance companies authorized; limitation on**
17 **authorized plans and companies; payroll deductions; self-**
18 **insurance programs; optional school district participation**
19 **in plan.**

20
21 (a) The state of Wyoming and its political
22 subdivisions and school districts may obtain group prepaid
23 plans or insurance for life, health, accident or

1 hospitalization for their employees and for elected
2 officials, ~~except~~ including for members of the legislature,
3 and enter into agreements with prepaid plans or insurance
4 companies to provide this coverage. Insurance coverage for
5 school district or board of cooperative educational
6 services employees meeting the definition of employee under
7 W.S. 9-3-203(a)(iv), shall, if elected by the district or
8 board under subsection (e) of this section, be provided
9 through the state employees' and officials' group insurance
10 plan in accordance with W.S. 9-3-202 through 9-3-218.
11 Insurance coverage for retired school district or board of
12 cooperative educational services employees shall, if
13 elected by the board or district under subsection (e) of
14 this section and if the retired employee was continuously
15 covered under the board's or district's insurance plan
16 prior to the election, be provided through the state
17 employees' and officials' group insurance plan in
18 accordance with W.S. 9-3-202 through 9-3-218. If a school
19 district or board of cooperative educational services
20 elects to cease participation in the group insurance plan
21 pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, the election
22 shall apply to retired employees of that board or district
23 who are receiving coverage under this subsection.

1

2 **9-3-203. Definitions.**

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4 (a) As used in this act:

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6 (ix) "Official" means any elected or appointed state
7 official who receives compensation other than expense
8 reimbursement from state funds, except for ~~members of the~~
9 ~~legislature and~~ officials serving on an intermittent,
10 irregular or less than halftime basis;

11

12 (xvii) "Member of the legislature" means a duly
13 elected or appointed member of the Wyoming senate or house
14 of representatives as of a date on which the member
15 is first sworn into office and until the member is removed
16 from office, resigns, is deceased or a new member is sworn
17 in for that person's seat in the legislature.

18

19 ~~(xiv)~~ (xviii) "This act" means W.S. 9-3-202
20 through ~~9-3-218.~~ 9-3-219;

21

22

1 9-3-207. Eligibility for membership in plan; state
2 employees; 31 day period to elect enrollment; new
3 employees; later enrollment.

4

5 (e) A member of the legislature is eligible for
6 coverage under the group insurance plan subject to the
7 provisions of W.S. 9-3-219.

8

9 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2023.

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11

(END)